



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

February 3, 2005

News Release

ICE INVESTIGATION LEADS TO INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE CHARGES AGAINST IRVINE COUPLE FOR HOLDING GIRL AS DOMESTIC SLAVE

IRVINE, Calif. – An Irvine couple was indicted yesterday by a federal grand jury on involuntary servitude charges for allegedly enslaving a 12-year-old girl in their garage for two years and forcing her to work as a domestic servant for their family of seven. The indictment stems from a joint investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Irvine Police Department.

Abdel Nasser Eid Youssef Ibrahim, 44, and Amal Ahmed Ewis-abd Motelib, 41, who were married at the time of the alleged offense, were named in a four count indictment accusing them of conspiring to hold the victim in involuntary servitude and obtaining her services by force and coercion.

“This case is a graphic illustration of the horror of human trafficking and the inhumane conditions that some victims are subjected to,” said Kumar Kibble, ICE assistant special agent-in-charge for Orange County. “It is a sad reflection on human greed, where, even in the most affluent neighborhoods, adults think they can take advantage of a helpless child – particularly from their home country.

The indictment alleges that Ibrahim and Motelib obtained the victim’s services through extortion and threats against the victim’s sister in Egypt. The couple then arranged through a third party to fraudulently obtain a visa for the victim so she could travel to the United States. Once here, Ibrahim and Motelib are accused of harboring the victim “in squalid conditions and concealing her presence from immigration authorities, school, and police officials so that she could serve their family as a domestic servant.”

Ibrahim and Motelib allegedly forced the girl to work inside their house, with little or no pay, by threatening her with bodily harm and actually striking her. According to the indictment, the couple also warned the victim that her sister would be arrested in Egypt, and that she, herself, would be arrested by the police if she left the house. The girl was held by Ibrahim and Motelib from August 2000 until April 9, 2002, when she was freed by authorities.

Ibrahim and Motelib are slated to go on trial July 12. If convicted of the charges against them, they face up to 50 years in prison.

The case against Ibrahim and Motelib is the first case brought under the purview of the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force, formed last year to increase the identification and prosecution of human trafficking cases in Orange County. In addition to ICE, members of the Task Force include: the U.S. Attorney's Office, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Irvine Police Department, Westminster Police Department, Garden Grove Police Department, the Anaheim Police Department, the Orange County District Attorney's Office, U.S. Department of Labor, Cal-OSHA/California Labor & Workforce Development Agency, CSP Victim-Assistance Programs, the Public Law Center, St. Anselm's Cross Cultural Community Center, Interval House's Domestic Violence Shelter, The Cambodian Family, Catholic Charities, Boat People/S.O.S., the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Orange County, and the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.